

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-4, 7 and 9 are in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 8 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner continues to reject claims 1-4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by *Okita et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete the terms "gluing" and "welding" from the list of connections claimed, and to include the elements of claim 8, now canceled. Gluing and welding form an adhesive bond and not a positive connection as contemplated by the invention. Page 4 of the specification recites: "In order to enable a simple combination of the protection strip comprised of at least two superimposed metal strips, and also ensure the displaceability of the metal strips relative to each other, it is provided that the metal strips of the electrode protection strip are exclusively positively

connected with each other, without forming an integral joint. . . .
By providing also an integral joint such as, e.g., by gluing or welding, any mutual displacement of the metal strips will be prevented." Thus, the specification indicates that the positive connection, which allows displaceability, does not include gluing or welding, or any type of connection that forms an integral joint.

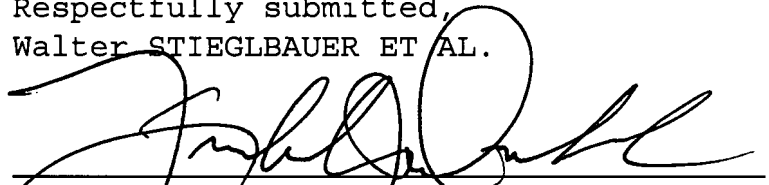
If the at least two superimposed metal strips made of different materials are exclusively positively connected by rabbeting or stamping, it is possible for the welder to select a suitable material combination obtaining the optimum protection of the welding electrode and a high quality welding joint. This very simple solution allows for a plurality of combinations of different strips to be realized by the user himself, at extremely low storage expenditures while obtaining an optimum welding quality.

The insert material according to Okita et al. includes a sheet like core material and coated layers which are fixed to both surfaces of the core material by means of electroplating, hot tipping, chemical vapor deposition, gladding or the like.

All of these connection methods form an integral joint or an adhesive bond which is different from an exclusively positive connection or positive fit as claimed in amended claim 1. The connection means of Okita do not allow displaceability of the metal strips.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 7 and 9 are patentable over the cited reference. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Copy of Petition for a One-month Extension of time
RCE and fee

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



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